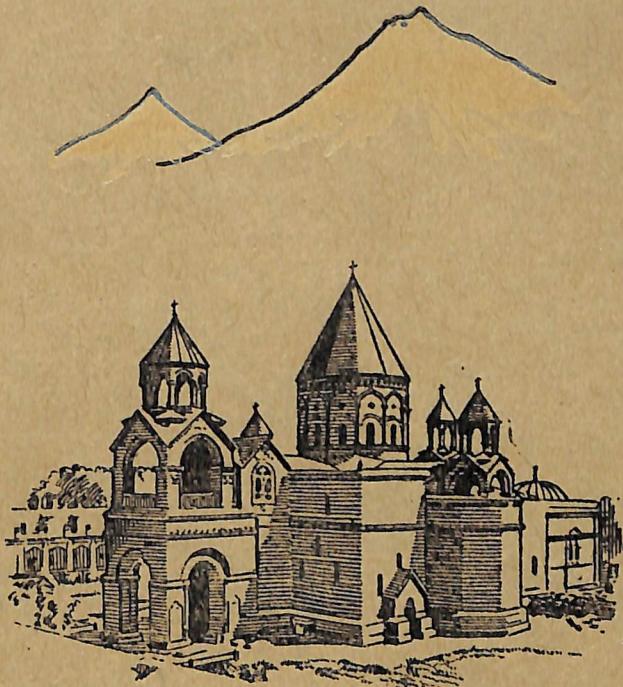


ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

Vol. II. No. 14. London : AUGUST, 1914. Price 6d.

Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.



All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

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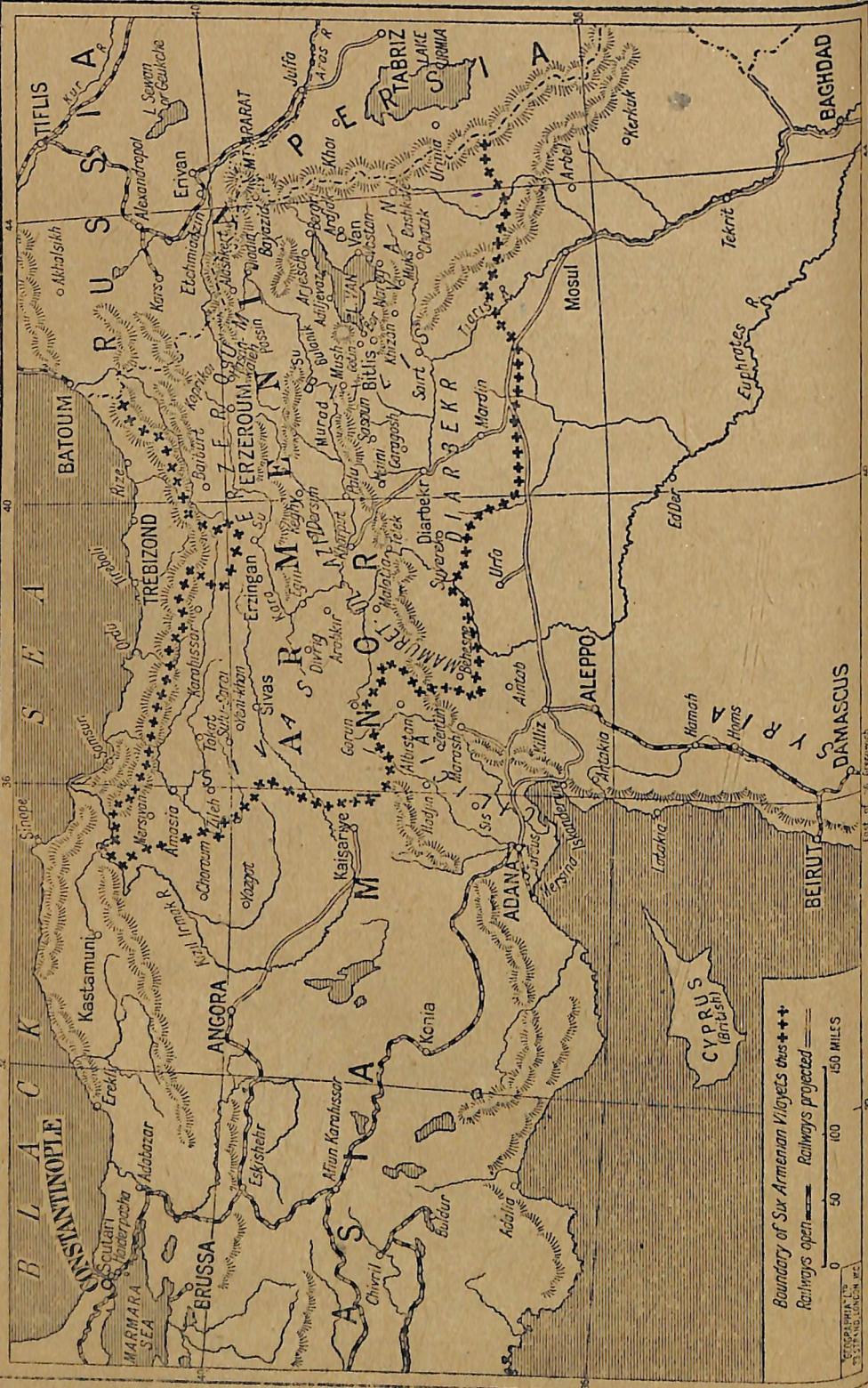
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TURKISH ARMENIA



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Current Notes.

It is a momentous period we are living in. When our last issue appeared, no one would have predicted that in a very few days the world would be plunged into the greatest war of any time. And here we are to-day with five of the six Great European Powers ranged on one side or the other in deadly conflict, with Belgium and Servia giving most valuable assistance. A Great Power of the East, Japan, has just joined in as we write, and the decision of Italy, the remaining Great European Power, is hanging in the balance.

Those who were behind the scenes, and those others who were versed in reading the signs of the times, have warned us time and again that this great cataclysm was bound to come. Since the Kaiser has been on the German throne, he has strained every nerve to transform his Continental Power into a World Power, and his inordinate ambition has plunged him into a naval and colonial rivalry with Great Britain. Generations of Germans have been sedulously taught that Great Britain stood in Germany's path to expansion, and that she must be got out of the way somehow. With this object in view the German fleet and the naval bases in the North Sea have gradually come into being. It was thought that by the help of the naval power when it had reached certain dimensions, and the crushing of France, at a time when England was unprepared, would pave the way to German ascendancy and bring with it the downfall of Great Britain as a World Power.

The overbearing attitude of Austria towards Servia was but a pretext to precipitate matters at what seemed to Germany an opportune moment, when Party strife was raging in Great Britain in connection with Ulstermen and the Irish Nationalists. Those who have watched the proceedings in the British Parliament and have read the White Paper, since published, regarding the events that led to the declaration of war by England, cannot hesitate to come to the conclusion that Germany has deliberately brought on the crisis, whereby desolation and destruction, fire and sword, will be carried through the length and breadth of Europe, over the wide seas, and even farther afield. It is despotism, of a Napoleonic order, run riot, and on a vaster scale, and it remains to be seen how far the calculations of the Kaiser and his militarist advisers will be fulfilled by coming events.

To those who believe in freedom and the sanctity of Treaties, as well as the rights of the smaller nations to carry on their existence on their own civilised methods and without molestation—and the bulk of mankind outside Germany and Austria might be included in this category—it is a relief to find that Great Britain did not hesitate to

throw her sword into the scale, when once Germany had torn off her mask and revealed her sinister motives. We now find the Triple Entente solidly facing the great world danger ; and the heroic conduct of Belgium in staying the onrush of Germans into France has been an episode in the war which will ever redound to the credit of that small nation in history. Mighty and momentous events are on the eve of happening, and it is with unflagging interest that we must follow the successive stages of the war.

It is not within our province to write a history of the war in this place, but to consider to what extent it will affect Armenian interests. The Powers which kept an eye on the good behaviour of Turkey, in an apathetic manner it is true, are now intensely preoccupied. Some of them no doubt had their own political and economic designs to promote in the Near East at the expense, it may be, of the Turk, or by playing her off against other Powers and the Balkan States. It has even been said by the "Young Turk" party that European intrigues in the Balkans and in Asia Minor have not given them a chance of getting their house in order. Soon after the Revolution of 1908 came the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, the proclamation of Bulgarian independence, and finally the Balkan Wars of 1912-13. Then there has been Germany gradually securing her foothold in Asia Minor by the Baghdad Railway. If the Turks are sincere and really need breathing space to put their house in order, now is the time of their existence to show the world what their intentions are. The reform of their Empire, the reform of the Armenian vilayets, is urgent. Will they rise to the occasion ?

We have dealt with this question elsewhere in this number, and we have our doubts. Hitherto we have found that preoccupation of the Powers means the lapse of Turkey into her time-honoured and historical methods ; and our prediction is that history will repeat itself. The traits of the ruling Turk, also dealt with separately in this number, are leading him into intrigues which, if persisted in, must end in his undoing. Armenian reforms may seem to be conveniently shelved for the moment—we are certainly not hearing much about them just now,—but if this temporary lull is pleasing to the Turk, we are more than inclined to think that, in the re-making of the map of Europe and of Western Asia at the close of the war, the position assigned to that Power among civilised nations will scarcely harmonise with the measure of cunning statesmanship which she has brought into play, when she was conscious that the mutual rivalries of the Great Powers enabled her to do so with impunity.

War brings in its train untold suffering, not only to combatants but to the entire mass of the populations of the countries concerned ; but when it is on the colossal scale of the present one, the distress that will be engendered passes human comprehension. The British nation has risen to the occasion, and many avenues have been opened for giving aid where it will be most felt. The Prince of Wales's, which is the chief national fund, already amounts to the enormous total of over a million and a half pounds sterling, and it is being added to daily. The small Armenian colony of London, hard hit though most of its members are by the collapse of trade and commerce, felt that it was its duty and privilege to raise a sum towards the relief of distress, and the following circular, which explains itself, was at once issued to the entire colony in London, where the addresses were known :—

URGENT.

THE ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

NOTICE.

The outbreak of European War and the entry of Great Britain into the list of combatants have thrown a heavy responsibility and strain on the British nation, every member of which, man and woman, is straining every nerve to meet them to the best of his or her power.

The small Armenian colony in London has duties not a whit less urgent. To the British nation they owe an enormous debt. They have enjoyed the full fruits of the liberty extended in its dominions to all foreigners ; indeed, all Armenians, whether British-born, naturalised or not naturalised, who have had the privilege of living under British rule, have identified themselves whole-heartedly with the British nation, and are at one with them in upholding British power, which they look upon as of paramount necessity for the progress and civilisation of the world.

With these thoughts in their hearts, the colony feels that it is its bounden duty and privilege to take its share in rendering what assistance it can towards meeting the burden so suddenly and unjustifiably cast on the country of their adoption.

There are several ways of rendering assistance, but it is felt that the most practical way for the small colony would be through the Prince of Wales's Fund or through Queen Mary's Guild.

This appeal is made by The Armenian United Association of London to all Armenians resident in the British capital, with the full

consciousness that this call will be generously responded to in the present anxious condition of affairs. Subscriptions will be received and duly acknowledged by :

Lieut.-Col. G. M. GREGORY, *President*,
36, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington,
London, W.

A. P. HACOBIAN, *Esq. Hon. Treasurer*,
21, Addison Road, Kensington, London, W.

Dr. M. K. GUDENIAN, *Hon. Secretary*,
37, Holland Road, Kensington, London, W.

The results of this appeal, and the manner of its disposal, will be duly notified to members.

G. M. GREGORY, LIEUT.-COL., V.D.,
President, Armenian United Association of London.

It will be seen from the above that it was left open to the General Council of the Association to decide whether the total contribution should be sent to the Prince of Wales's Fund or to Queen Mary's Guild. This decision will be arrived at as soon as all responses to the circular have been received. It will be well for the Council to consider also a third alternative which has asserted itself since the circular was issued. The devotion and heroism of the little Belgian nation have placed the Allies, and we might say the vast proportion of mankind, under a debt of gratitude which time will never efface. The peaceful Belgian country is laid waste, its economic life has been rudely brought to a standstill, and there is scarcely a home there that is not in distress or mourning, and all because they are fighting for the rights of freedom and as the vanguard of the Allies—a fight thrust on these Belgians, and not of their seeking. Relief there is more urgently needed than anywhere else, and relief given to Belgium would be tantamount to giving it to the British Funds, as the people of the two countries are brothers in arms. Moreover, the subscribers to the great British National Fund are already agitating that a goodly portion of it should at once go to Belgium to meet the urgent necessities of the situation. When arriving at a decision, we commend this alternative—the giving of our contribution to the Belgian Funds—to the consideration of the Council.

Apart from financial aid to the best of its power, we are not aware to what extent personal aid is being given by Armenians to the various countries that are now ranged in battle array. Undoubtedly Russia has a considerable number of them in her army drawn from the

Caucasus, and Armenian officers of that army have, in past wars, done notable deeds for the Russian forces. Our colony here is too small to be of material assistance to the English cause in its Field Force, but there is one instance that must be noted. A young member of the Armenian Association, Mr. J. S. Gregory, a son of the President, who had just completed his course in the Officers' Training Corps, offered his services on the outbreak of war, which were at once accepted by the War Office. He is now serving in the British Expeditionary Force on the Continent as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps.

In the turmoil of war little notice is taken just now of happenings in far-off regions, nor is it easy for news to travel from places off beaten tracks; but one must not assume from this that Kurds and such-like turbulent people are quiescent, or care a straw for what is happening in Europe. Russia, we know, has many of these tribes in her pay, but even subsidies, on the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief, will not always ensure good behaviour, or engender respect for the giver of subsidy from those who are not the actual recipients. Information received last month from Teheran goes to show that the Kurdish chief Seyyid Beg, carrying letters of introduction from the Russian Consul at Khoi to the Russian Consul at Maku, was killed by Maku Kurds. His family and fifty other persons were beleagured in a village, which was subsequently sacked, all being put to the sword before the arrival of a Russian detachment from Khoi, which was itself fired on. The Russians, however, may be trusted to clear this hornets' nest in their own way on a suitable opportunity.

It is usual for us to notify beforehand the dates and character of the periodical social gatherings held under the auspices of the Armenian United Association. Under ordinary circumstances we should have announced in this issue the date of the gathering for October. The existing state of the political horizon, which has brought with it untold misery and anxiety, from which the Armenian colony is by no means free, precludes us, however, from making any fixture so far ahead. When such gatherings can again be held in an atmosphere more suitable to ourselves and our surroundings, ample notice will be given.

The Inspectors-General.

Are they mere Turkish Officials, or the Representatives of the European Powers?

In the last issue of this magazine expression was given under reserve to the sinister rumours that were current with reference to the fundamental alterations for the worse in the scheme of Armenian reforms, which were said to have been forced upon the two European Inspectors-General by the Turkish Government. The information now to hand sufficiently shows that the Turks have again succeeded in thwarting the efficiency of that scheme by stripping these two officials of the powers, whereby alone they could have successfully carried out the duties entrusted to them.

About the middle of last May, while the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople was accompanying the Turkish mission to wait upon the Czar at Livadia, the two Inspectors had to negotiate the terms affecting their jurisdiction and powers directly with the Porte, the Powers apparently standing aloof. As a result of this unsupported negotiation, the Inspectors were constrained to sign a contract and the "Instructions," in which the Turks alone had a hand. From what is said below, it will be seen that practically all controlling jurisdiction has been withdrawn from these officials who are supposed to be the representatives of Europe—jurisdiction which the Turks, in February last, were compelled to admit as necessary at the instigation of the Great Powers, of whom Russia acted as spokesman.

The Russo-Turkish Agreement of last February with reference to Armenian reforms is of international and diplomatic interest. It lays down categorically that the Inspectors-General were to have power to control the entire administration—justice, police and gendarmerie—of the Armenian vilayets; to dismiss all corrupt and incapable officials; to suspend judges; to decide agrarian disputes between Christians and Moslems; and to ensure that all laws affecting national rights with regard to schools, judicial courts, provincial councils, etc., were properly carried out. On the other hand, the "Instructions" signed on May 23rd last by the Porte and the Inspectors-General, referred to above, are of a purely domestic character, such as would be agreed to between the Turkish Government and any of its officials, all traces of international control having been carefully eliminated.

It is true, however, that a large portion of the original Russo-Turkish Agreement of February last has been inserted in the "Instructions" of May, but the omissions and additions display the master-cunning of a hand well versed in Turkish duplicity. The basic principle of European control has practically gone by the board, while the proposed Armenian reforms have been identified with the eternal desire of Turkey for the reform of the whole Empire. Perhaps

it may be interesting to recall here that in July, 1913, the Porte having got wind of the approaching compulsion in the problem of Armenian reforms, and with a view to forestalling European action, spontaneously decided to divide the Empire into six spheres of Inspectorates, two of which were to go to Armenia. The Powers were duly notified of the resolve, and a circular despatch was wired by the Porte to all provincial authorities to put into force the reforms indicated in the circular. It would be difficult to give the exact total of the numerous reform schemes hatched by Turkey within the last six decades, solely with the object of hoodwinking the Powers. The marvel is that the Powers allow themselves to be so continually hoodwinked—or is its apathy due to mutual jealousies among themselves? However, this new Turkish scheme of 1913 was an abortive as any that preceded it.

If we go into the details of the "Instructions," and compare them with the Russo-Turkish Agreement, which is their basis, we shall find that the former is no more than an ordinary Turkish *firman*. Article 2 of the Agreement empowers the Inspectors to supervise the courts of justice, police, gendarmerie, etc. This has been reproduced in the "Instructions," but in Article 3 of the latter it is significantly added that the powers just bestowed on the Inspectors-General can only be exercised in accordance with the laws and regulations which are already in force in the Empire. All initiative for improvement is thus taken away at one stroke, and the Inspectors are reduced to the position of ordinary Turkish officials, who may send up as many schemes as they please for the amelioration of the country, but these must of necessity go through the usual channels to the various departments at Constantinople, there to be lodged in their respective pigeon-holes.

Again, in the Agreement it was stipulated that the Inspectors were to be endowed with powers to dismiss all officials, excepting the Valis. In the "Instructions," however, the heads of departments of every description, as well as others short of menials, are brought into the category of "higher" officials, and are thus exempted from the powers of dismissal which were to be given to the Inspectors-General. Even Turkish inspectors for specific purposes are made dependent upon their respective State departments at Constantinople, and outside the powers of the Inspectors-General—powers which are thus whittled away to a mere sham.

Then again, all schemes for police and gendarmerie reforms, which the Inspectors-General may present to the Porte, will be considered by the latter only on the contingency of the Vali's approval. As to schemes for the educational and economic development of Armenia, these must be drawn up in conjunction with experts to be appointed by the Porte, and they will study the schemes on the spot and report thereon. To add to the humour of the situation, the Turkish Government practically appoints a host of secretaries, clerks, interpreters and councillors "to facilitate" the task of the Inspectors-

General. But that is not all. It was stipulated in the Agreement that the term of service of the Inspectors-General was to be for ten years. In the "Instructions" it is laid down that, in case of any differences arising between these officials and the Porte, the contract between them can be annulled by a six months' notice.

We have given enough instances from these "Instructions" to show that the Turk has again been permitted to have recourse to his old game of cunning and duplicity ; and that what he gives with one hand under pressure, he takes away with the other when, through apathy, the Powers relax that pressure. What we are unable to understand is that the two high officials, with exceptional careers behind them and ahead of them in their own countries, should submit to be treated as mere Turkish officials under the deceptive cloak of European control. In the existing disorganised state of postal communication in Europe, news from Turkey and Armenia is received spasmodically and at long intervals. It was a fortnight ago we heard that Colonel Hoff had just left Constantinople for his post in Armenia ; and that M. Westenenk was to follow very soon. We cannot believe that the altered conditions of service, if our information as to its genuineness be correct, will induce these gentlemen, when they once realise the falseness of their position, to retain their posts with any self-respect.

There is no doubt that Armenians were looking forward to the early dawn of a new era, and we must admit that we ourselves were sanguine of a speedy turn of the wheel of fortune towards a regenerated Armenia. It was with a full sense of the gravity of the situation and the trust we have reposed in the Powers that we have repeatedly counselled moderation and patience on our readers, and we shall be the first to regret the miscarriage of efforts which had so much of promise in them.

While we write the entire European position is being changed ; and, it may be, before many months or even weeks have passed, some of the six Great Powers of Europe may have lost their prestige, or added enormously to it. Turkey is wideawake to the possibilities, and is playing a waiting game—nay, she is even showing signs, in some ways, of undue precipitation. Her imitative faculties have probably induced a swelled head, and the pregnant period ahead of us will undoubtedly give birth to events of a far-reaching nature. Whether Turkey will be able to disentangle herself from intrigues and play a straight game, we shall know very soon ; but her whole past history, combined with the swelled head, do not give us much hope for her in the Near East ; and with the entire politics of the Near East, now once again in a simmering state, the fate of Armenia is indissolubly bound up, and with it the fate of the Inspectors-General.

Up to Aug 14th

Traits of the Ruling Turk.

To diagnose the characteristics of the Turk in statecraft or diplomacy has not hitherto been a difficult task. To any one who has travelled in Oriental countries, the Turkish traits are as patent as they well can be. The Oriental love for chaffering and haggling over a bargain may be all very well, and is easily met by counter-attempts on the opposite side after a little knowledge of what to expect. His subtlety and cunning in matters of high national import, however patent these too may be to people accustomed to carry on the affairs of the world, are apt to lead to disasters ; and the Turk will have himself to blame if, in the present temper of Europe, he allows play to his accustomed duplicity. This assuredly is not a time for playing off one nation against another, and the proverbial cunning which the Turk has displayed when the mutual jealousies of six great Powers were concerned will hardly avail at a time of grim determination to suppress despotism in Europe and to uphold the rights of small nationalities to live and to carry on their avocations in peace. If the Turk perseveres in his fatuous course, it requires no great insight to foretell that his end is in sight, and that the Turkish Empire is doomed to extinction.

Our remarks have been prompted by the action of the Turkish Government in giving, with open arms, asylum to the German ships of war, the Goeben and the Breslau, and then, despite of international law, purchasing these ships. Various and contradictory rumours have been current ; the ships have had their German crews removed, and the latter sent back to Germany ; the Germans still control their ships, which are used for terrorising the flags of other nationalities in the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmora ; the ships have been purchased with a view to overawing Greece ; and they are intended to be a menace to Russia in the Black Sea. Which of these statements are true and which are not, it is difficult to say ; but one thing is clear, that Turkey is temporising so as to cast in her lot with that side which happens to show signs of becoming the victor.

She is in German leading-strings and her sympathies are that way inclined. Her army is under German reorganisation ; her War Minister, Enver Pasha, has German training and is imbued with German principles. But we may be quite sure that the Allies, Great Britain, France and Russia are alive to Turkish machinations, and will stand no nonsense at this critical period. The order prohibiting the supply of Welsh coal to Turkish ports is ominous. The leverage of Russia on Asiatic Turkey is a powerful weapon against her playing false to Russian interests ; while the following official explanation of the Turkish Ambassador in Paris shows that the French are not to be hoodwinked. We quote the statement of *The Times* correspondent in Paris, dated August 14th :—

"Rifaat Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador in Paris, in an explanation of the purchase of the German cruisers, said that if the manner in which they had been acquired might be open to objection, though the Declaration of London only applied to the transfer of merchant ships, yet Turkish intentions were free from all duplicity.

"On the other hand, information published here states that the Goeben and the Breslau are still anchored in the Dardanelles. The cruisers have been enthusiastically received by the Turks, who furnish them with coal. Turkish torpedo boats give the Germans the result of their reconnaissance at sea. The cruisers have searched French, English, and Greek shipping in the harbour for contraband of war. The Germans are masters of the Straits and have dismantled the wireless installation on board the Sagalien belonging to the Messageries Maritimes, threatening to sink the liner if she resisted."

While we write the position may be changing, but we feel sure that this important matter cannot rest on such Turkish explanations, and that we shall hear more of it and very soon. Greece, we are told, has asked for explanations of Turkish mobilisation and advance into Bulgarian territory in the direction of Greece. The portents, indeed, are ominous, and they bode no good to the Turkish Empire.

We have headed our article *Traits of the Ruling Turk*, and it will interest our readers to have the views of *The Times* correspondent at Constantinople on the subject, which appeared in that paper in its issue of July 14th. It is interesting to note the encomium passed on Oskian Effendi, the very capable Armenian Minister of Posts and Telegraphs:—

"All foreign observers of Turkish life in Constantinople have been struck by the growth and persistence, since the overthrow of Abdul Hamid, of a strong Nationalist spirit among the educated classes. Whether this 'new Nationalism' bodes well or ill for the tranquility of the Near East is a question that cannot easily be answered. To estimate its possibilities for good or evil, it is first of all essential to understand the state of mind of the Turkish educated class, or *Intelligenzia*, of Constantinople and Smyrna. The Anatolian peasant, whose homely virtues have been deservedly praised, has never played a part in the government of his country. His ignorance and lack of civic courage have conspired with his obedience and unassertiveness to prevent him from being more than an uncomplaining taxpayer in peace and an equally uncomplaining food for powder in war. Town life and Levantine surroundings are apt to sap his natural virtues when he has abandoned the soil for the Government office to which the educated son of the prosperous farmer so often aspires.

THE MOSLEM LEVANTINE.

"Turkish" in name, the educated class, especially in the capital, is not always Turkish in blood. It is really a "Moslem Levantine" bureaucratic and military caste, often divided by the quarrels of

political cliques but united by Islam and by the determination to maintain the claim of the Turk, in whose name it governs, to rule as undisputed master over the subject races. The centralisation of power in Constantinople which followed Mahmud the Reformer's destruction of the Janissaries and abolition of the great Pashaliks, enormously increased its influence. The primitive Turk was a soldier, inferior to his neighbours in mental gifts, but superior in discipline and manliness. Persian and Byzantine influences were long neutralised by the military tradition and by the greater relative importance of the provincial capitals. Mahmud's success drove to the capital the able provincial in search of a career. It strengthened the 'Stambuli' by an infusion of fresh blood, but it also tended to 'Levantinise' the provincial.

"Since the Revolution of 1908 the ultimate control of affairs has seemed to be vested in a mainly Rumeliot (European Turkish) party, sometimes inspired by Jews and crypto-Jews. But whatever the ruling clique, the moral and mental atmosphere of Constantinople, credulous, excitable, and unstable, forms a screen through which it is difficult to discern the lineaments of the protagonists of the Turkish drama. The Moslem Levantine, usually braver, prouder, and less intelligent than the Levantine Christian, but with the same 'brain-gloriousness,' the same instability, the same curious inability to see more than one side of a question, and the same tendency to 'smatter' rather than learn a subject thoroughly, is the material with which the leaders of the *Intelligenzia* must work. But the word 'Levantine' must not be taken in its least favourable sense. The majority of Turkish officials are honest; many are hard workers and the idle are often so because they have not been taught how to work. The success of Sir R. Crawford in the Customs administration and of Oskian Effendi in the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs proves that Ottoman officials can do good work under proper direction. The majority of the minor provincial officials are little affected by Levantine influences and would render excellent service did their chiefs cease to treat them as pawns in the party game.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION.

"Yet the influence of the capital is enervating, nor is it sufficiently counteracted by education. Religion, if still potent among the masses, seems a political rather than a moral force among the educated men of the younger generation. Just as Orthodox Christianity is viewed by most Ottoman Greeks from a merely national standpoint, so Islamism appeals to the natural desire of the educated Turk, who has lost belief in its dogmas, to enjoy material advantages over the non-Moslem in this world, whatever he may believe as regards the next. The moral teaching of Islam concerning abstinence from gambling, drunkenness, and sexual immorality is ignored by too large a proportion of the free-thinking youth of Constantinople. If local conditions are not calculated to prevent the conversion of good provincial stock into Levantines, education abroad often produces deplorable results. In some cases Circe rather than Pallas Athene claims the interest of the expatriated

Turk ; in others the Erinyes of Revolution are the goddesses to whom all is sacrificed and in the company of whose votaries the exile or student fits himself to govern an ancient Empire.

" But the Turkish governing class still possesses moral assets of value—abundant charity to its poorer members, much good nature and urbanity, more idealism than foreigners suspect, and among the young a genuine ardour for the benefits of administrative progress.

" In the new leaders of the governing class are found men of a type different from that of the majority of their followers. Most of the chief 'Ittihadjis' (Unionists) are Rumeliots. Some are of Jewish or crypto-Jewish origin ; others have been influenced by Jewish Salonika, the Mecca of the Turkish revolutionary, now in infidel hands. Their chief weaknesses are their lack of experience ; their Oriental worship of force ; the traditional Ottoman arbitrariness, supplemented by revolutionary intolerance, which leads them to regard opposition as a form of rebellion and criticism unsweetened by flattery as a proof of hostility. The national fear of responsibility clung to them during their first experiments in government, and led them to adopt singular and often transparent disguises, which they have not altogether doffed. Their friends have done them a disservice by insisting too emphatically on the nobility of their ideals. Their enemies have insisted too strongly on the 'strange' contrast between their libertarian precepts and their often arbitrary practice. Avid of power rather than wealth, capable of a high degree of patriotic idealism combined with what purists may regard as very materialistic political methods, they surpass most of their compatriots in courage and persistence.'

Interview with Boghos Nubar Pasha.

It is interesting to note that the Armenian Question finds a place in the leading Indian paper, *The Pioneer*. Its Cairo correspondent, in the issue of *The Pioneer Mail* of July 10th, describes an interview he had with Boghos Pasha on the question. The latter's optimism on the settlement was no less than ours, and it would be curious to know how far his faith has been shaken by the recent machinations of Turkey. We give below the full account of the interview :—

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION.

" Amongst those who left Egypt for Europe this week was Boghos Pasha Nubar, the son of Egypt's famous Prime Minister, Nubar Pasha. He is an Armenian by birth, and is well known in the European financial world for the prominent part he has taken in the many Egyptian enterprises in which European capitalists are interested, but he has more recently come to the fore in connection with the Armenian question, with the settlement of which his name will always be intimately associated. I had the pleasure of a conversation with him just before he left and obtained some interesting details in regard to

the 'question,' which, thanks to his successful negotiations, should in the future no longer constitute an element of danger to the peace of Europe. Armenia has for decades clamoured for reforms and repeatedly those reforms have been promised her. But in typical Turkish fashion these promises have never been kept, and in fact the condition of the Armenians has been steadily growing worse. What made the situation more serious was the fact that Russia has two million Armenian subjects within her borders, who are heart and soul in sympathy with their co-religionists across the frontier—Armenia consists of six Turkish vilayets in Asia Minor and adjoins Russia—and who would have ended by forcing her to intervene actively. Such a step would have inevitably led to the disruption of the Turkish Empire, and as Europe is interested in keeping that Empire (as it now stands) intact, she was quite prepared to support the cause of Armenia. But all the Powers were chary of taking the initiative and since the Armenians had no means of properly presenting their demands nothing was done, and as I said matters became steadily worse. It was at the height of the crisis, that Nubar Pasha was approached and asked if he would lead a delegation to the Powers and the Porte. He had no territorial interests in Armenia—all his interests (and as he is a millionaire, they are considerable) are in Egypt—but he felt acutely for his co-religionists and for two years he has abandoned his own affairs and has been championing their cause in Europe.

" His efforts met with success. The Porte agreed to introduce administrative reforms and to the appointment of two European Inspectors-General, who would be chosen from a list of candidates to be drawn up by the Powers, and who would have full power to administer the six vilayets. With very little delay, the Inspectors-General have been chosen and in the course of the next few months they will proceed to take up their posts. Amongst the reforms to be introduced are the creation of a special gendarmerie to be recruited half from the Christian Armenians and half from the Moslems ; a seventh vilayet, Trebizond, is to be added to the area known as Armenia ; in three vilayets the municipal council is to be composed of Christians and Moslems in equal proportion ; in the four others representation is to be proportional to the numerical strength of each community ; the Armenian language is to be recognised officially for the transaction of public business ; commissions are to be formed for the purpose of allotting indemnities to the Armenians for land taken from them by force in the past ; and the education tax, instead of being exclusively devoted to Moslem schools, is to be allocated proportionately to all the schools, no matter what their denomination may be. Nubar Pasha expressed himself as being most sanguine with regard to the future, and said that there had of late been many signs to show that the Porte realised that the settlement of the Armenian question on the lines imposed was to its interest. Moreover now that Europe has been made a party to the introduction of reforms, there could be no turning back, nor did he think there was any reason to expect any such contingency."

"From London to Armenia,"

By ARAM RAFFI.

(Continued from p. 408, Vol. I.)

VIII.

A PAGE OF OUTRAGES.

A Craving for News—The New Régime and the Old—Little Patches of Light—Shakir—Mir Mhe—The Life of a Kurdish Brigand—A Record of the Toll of Blood—A Guide to Turkish Terminology.

It is daylight and we have already remounted our horses. Our watches have stopped. "What is the time?" we inquire of our muleteers. We asked this half-jokingly, not thinking that any of them would possess a watch, but one of them replied, without making any movement to take a watch out of his pocket: "It is 11 o'clock." This surprised us the more because, even without a watch, one would think this answer was wrong, unless one happens to know that the Ottoman Turks reckon the time from sunset, which they call the 12th hour. An hour after it is 1 o'clock and so on till the 12th hour in the morning (6 a.m.), when they begin again. This reckoning of time is called *alatourqua* (*à la turque*) to distinguish it from European time, which is called *alafranka* (*à la française*).

It has become second nature to want to know the first thing in the morning what is going on in the world, but there are no newspapers to be had in these bare Kurdish villages through which we were riding. Our muleteers exhausted their stock of news some days ago, and the only source of tidings from the outer world are the fresh Zaptiehs obtained at the new stage and people we happen to meet on the road.

In Europe, in looking through the newspapers, one finds some columns devoted to street accidents, such as collisions of vehicles, the running over of foot passengers, etc. In those columns are also accounts of street fights, thefts and other abnormal incidents of life. Every citizen who reads this part of his paper takes for granted that these events will be duly dealt with by the proper authorities, and therefore regards them with unconcerned curiosity. But in Turkish Armenia abnormal incidents, far more serious than those mentioned above, have become normal; they are, in fact, every day occurrences.

The New Régime has now superseded the old one, the Constitution is in force and the young Turks are in power. The terror of Sultan Hamid has been removed from the inhabitants. One can now speak more freely and make complaints without fear. The gangs of spies and informers which used to be the dread of the country are now fewer in number and less formidable, and Armenians show, when necessary, a spirit of protest and retaliation. The roads are now comparatively secure, and the authorities do not raise so many difficulties as in past days when any of the people wish to go from one place to another.

Officials show—to a certain extent—a sense of responsibility which was formerly conspicuous by its absence. But all this has come to pass, not because the Young Turks are animated by the spirit of reform and the desire to regenerate all things without distinction of race, but because they see that it is dangerous to leave the grievances of the Armenians unheeded. The spectre of the great interested Power, which, under pretence of championing Armenia, might establish its own sovereignty in those parts, has become, to a certain extent, a check, though by no means a sufficient one. Notwithstanding all this the situation remains essentially the same—the intolerable conditions which have subsisted for centuries are still as they always have been.

At sunset, if you ascend any of the solitary hills in the fields, you will notice all around, in the distance, little patches of light, which as you watch, gradually increase in size, till at last you distinguish flames. Next day, when you make inquiries, you are told that the light proceeded from such and such fields, near which such and such villages had been set on fire by the Kurds. What you saw was the burning stacks of hay and corn. This burning is a constant practice of the Kurds wherever they are. My informant said that, within a week, in a village called Avran, three conflagrations took place. The field which was the scene of the first fire belonged to a certain Gspe Petros. Seven stacks were burnt, worth £20. Two days afterwards fifteen stacks belonging to a certain Eghen Aso were burnt in his own corn-fields, the damage amounting to £30 or £35. The very next day, in the same village, the Kurds set fire to the house of Grigor, son of Lolosh Hlo, who, with his young wife and two children, was suffocated in the smoke. The whole village was terror stricken. Nobody knows what reason prompted those miscreants to commit these outrages, unless it were the love of injuring others which has become a second nature to them. Incidents of this kind are of every day occurrence. My informant concluded: "Life in this most distressful country was a hell yesterday, is a hell to-day, and seems likely to continue so." Villages used to be burned during the Hamidian régime; they are burned now under the Constitutional Government, and the sufferers have always been, and still are, Armenian peasants.

* * * * *

From the Zaptiehs and others we heard of fighting between Turkish troops and Kurdish chiefs. It appeared that the Turkish Government had sent Khalil Bey against Shakir, the terror of Van, and his subordinates, and Shakir had been killed. This was great news for the whole country, because of the numerous outrages committed by this brigand almost with impunity. Before the massacres of '96, a warrant was issued for his arrest, on account of the numerous acts of violence of which he had been guilty, but he could not be caught, and in his absence he was sentenced to 101 years' imprisonment (that is the Turkish equivalent of imprisonment for life). During the massacre of 1896, he committed many outrages on women and children, plundered and burnt many Armenian villages in Nordouz, Shatakh

and Haiotz tzor. In Tzvstan alone 101 boys were circumcised. Nordouz was completely terrorised. In this place there are 600 Armenian houses. The inhabitants of half these were destroyed; the occupants of the other half managed to escape. During those massacres in the vilayet Shakir made his name a synonym of "death."

As a reward for all this, his former conviction was cancelled by Sultan Hamid. The news of his death was hailed with rapturous joy by the poor Armenian peasants, but amid their rejoicing they asked: Why was such activity shown against him just at this moment, when the doings of other Kurdish chiefs were regarded with apathy, and many who had committed great outrages had been released after a short detention? Close examination into the matter and experience show that Kurdish chiefs are not punished for the outrages they have committed, but they are marked out for punishment as soon as they become dangerous to the Turkish Government. Steps against these chiefs have been taken lately because there is a Kurdish movement hostile to Turkey. Soon after this another Turkish chief was killed—Mir Mhe, a nephew of Shakir—who had committed unheard of outrages against Armenians.

The circumstances which led to Mir Mhe's becoming a brigand-chief are significant, in that they show the way in which many Kurds are driven to set themselves up as brigands. In 1905, Shakir was at the zenith of the glory he had attained at the expense, not only of Armenians but of his own people. He was murdering Armenians, but at the same time he was oppressing Kurdish peasants with all his might. So indiscriminate was he in his tyranny that even his own relations became his victims. Mir Mhe claimed his rights as to property and such matters, which Shakir flatly refused to admit. This goaded Mir Mhe into rebelling against his uncle and starting brigandage on his own account. Five or six other relations of Shakir followed this example. It is almost the general rule that, when a robber-chief becomes very powerful, like Shakir, some of the other members of the family separate from him and set up for themselves. Even brigandage follows the ways of a mercantile concern, in which, as the business grows, each partner starts a new enterprise. The methods are almost identical in the two cases. A self-appointed chief considers certain villages his own property. He advises the village head-men of his intended visit and demands that a certain sum of money shall be ready for him. This tax he exacts every year on his own authority. He then selects as his headquarters a high and inaccessible mountain, where he finds security after a marauding expedition, a murder, or any other of the deeds in which men of his calling employ themselves. In every village within his usurped jurisdiction he has associates, reserved forces and spies, who communicate with him and render assistance in time of danger. Late in the autumn, when it grows cold in the mountains, he repairs to some other chief who lives in a more settled region, taking him a substantial share of his spoils, and spends the winter there. At the first burst of spring, he recommences his malignant activities. He punishes his agents very severely when they displease

him, especially if they are guilty of treachery. Such is the life of a Kurdish brigand-chief. The names of Shakir, Mir Mhe, and other brigands are household words in those parts. In other countries it is the benefactors whose names are in everybody's mouth; here it is the destroyers. The victims of these human vampires are numbered by thousands. Even the mountains and valleys shudder at their outrages

* * * * *

Between January 1st and June 30th, 1913, the following outrages were committed:—Murdered, chiefly by Kurdish Begs, 140 people; seriously wounded, in most cases maimed for life, 113; kidnapped and violated, girls 69, boys 8; making a total of 330 persons injured. Some of the children mentioned above managed to escape and returned to their homes, though in a state of moral and physical ruin. During this time 134 attacks were made by Kurds, for the sake of plunder, on Armenian villages and townships. In a few instances attacks were made by gendarmes, and in many cases gendarmes have looked on without any attempt to interfere while Kurds have committed robbery and violence. There are 196 cases of plunder by small marauding bands, chiefly Kurds, from houses and farms.

Cases of organised terrorism of Armenian villages and townspeople by threats of massacre, etc., amount to 229.

This record does not include the numberless cases of incendiaryism, theft, beating, and illegal exactions imposed by Kurdish Begs by the exercise of force. Omitted from the record are also forced labour under threat of violence, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment of men and women, various insults and annoyances inflicted by tyrannical and corrupt officials and the fanatical and lawless sections of the Moslem populace on the Armenians, and even to some extent on the more peaceable and industrious classes of Mohamedans. The province which has suffered most from these assaults is Bitlis-Moosh, next comes Van, and then Diarbekir.

The list of outrages is necessarily incomplete, as there are many remote places that have been attacked, without having their sufferings recorded. The outrages are chronicled by the Armenian clergy of the neighbourhood, the Bishops of the districts, and are pretty accurate. Against all these 889 outrages, there are only 7 or 8 murders of Turks and Kurds by Armenians; and these almost without exception, were committed in self-defence or in revenge for murder of kindred. There is no question here of "six of one and half a dozen of the other." Armenians have never been guilty of plundering their neighbours of a different race or of the violation of Turkish and Kurdish women.

It has become a proverb that in Turkey Armenians are outside the law. This saying has arisen out of facts and events. If one were to enumerate the outrages committed on Armenians, the total would send a shudder through humanity.

* * * * *

One comes to new places, some large, some small. One wonders whether they are towns or villages, and what is their standing in the province. One meets various Turkish officials. One wants to know

their position, for the order of their rank differs from that of Europe. One often hears the Turkish equivalents of the English terms which we have so far used. We subjoin a few particulars to serve as a rough guide to those who are following our narrative.

The countries of the Ottoman Empire are divided into *vilayets* (provinces), the vilayets into *sanjaks* or *livas* (counties), the sanjaks into *kazas* (districts), the kazas into *nahiyes* (sub-districts), and the nahiyes into *karyés* or *keóys* (villages).

The ruler of a vilayet is called a *vali* (Governor General); the head of a sanjak is a *mütes-arrif* (governor); the head of a kaza, a *kaymakam* (lieutenant-governor); the head of a nahiye a *mûder*; and the authorities over the *karyés* are *iktiyar-mejlisi* (bailiff-courts) and *moukhtars* (bailiffs). The vali is appointed by the Sultan, the mütes-arrif is under the vali, the kaymakam under the mütes-arrif, and the mûder under the kaymakam.

Turkey is divided into 29 provinces, of which 21 are in Asia.

Every vilayet, sanjak and kaza has an Administrative Council of its own, composed of *ex-officio* and elected members. The *ex-officio* members of the Vilayet Council are the Magistrate, the Chief Officer of the Canon Law, the Auditor, the Chief Secretary, and the spiritual heads of the non-Moslem communities in the capital town. Similarly, in the Sanjak, the *ex-officio* members are the Magistrate, the Mufti, the Auditor, the Chief Secretary, and the spiritual heads of the non-Moslem communities in the chief town of the sanjak; in the kaza, the assistant Magistrate, the Mufti, the Auditor, the Chief Secretary, and the spiritual heads of the non-Moslem communities in the chief place of the Kaza. The elected members are four in number, two being Moslems and two non-Moslems. They are elected by the people.

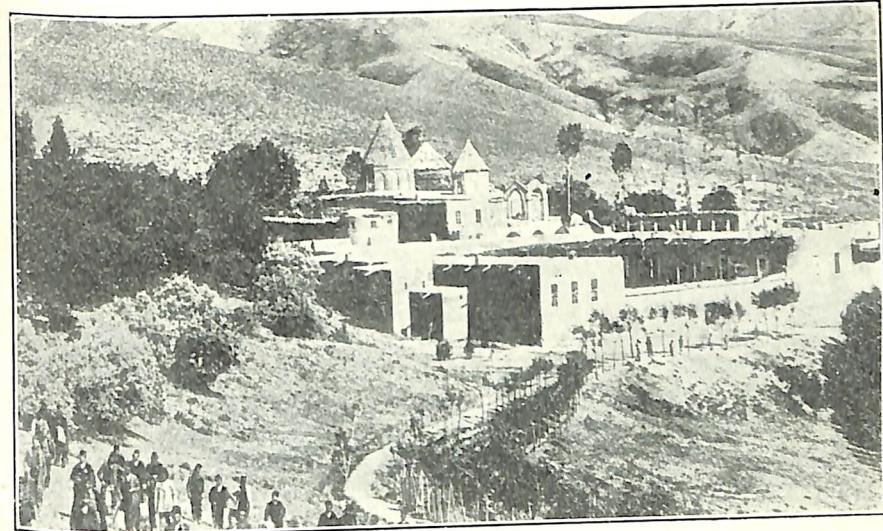
The vilayet of Van, where we are travelling, is 39,300 square kilometres in extent. It is divided into 2 sanjaks, viz.: Van and Hakari. The sanjak of Van contains the following kazas, with their villages:—

1. Van	kaza contains	293	villages.
2. Gavash	"	181	"
3. Shatakh	"	162	"
4. Ardjesh	"	132	"
5. Mahmudi	"	83	"
6. Adeldjivar	"	44	"
Total six kazas		895	"

Hakari sanjak contains the following kazas, with their villages:—

1. D'jula-merik	kaza contains	196	villages.
2. Gevar	"	184	"
3. Hakari	"	144	"
4. Shemdinan	"	131	"
5. Hamide	"	43	"
6. Mamured	"	34	"
Total six kazas		732	"

Thus in the vilayet of Van, there are two sanjaks, 12 kazas, and 1,627 villages.
(To be continued.)



Monastery at Varag.



The Abbot and Teachers.

The M.P. for Caesarea.

Towards the end of April last there departed from our midst our friend, Prof. G. Thoumaian, to take up his duties as Deputy for Cæsarea in the Turkish Parliament at Constantinople, to which he was elected as one of the Armenian representatives. We bade him farewell with full confidence in his ability to uphold his position amidst difficult surroundings, and we looked forward to hearing of his efforts, supported by knowledge, experience and tact, to imbue the Turkish Assembly with sound and practical advice on many matters of moment affecting the Armenian population. We have been pleased on several occasions to see eulogistic references to Prof. Thoumaian in the Turkish papers.

About the middle of last month, when the vote of the Ministry of Public Education was being discussed in the Turkish Chamber of Deputies, several Turkish and Armenian Deputies complained bitterly of the niggardly sums allotted in the Budget for the educational purposes of the country. Turks and Arabs pointed out the unfortunate fact that while millions were being expended on unproductive services, a beggarly sum of half a million was allotted to the educational department of a large Empire with twenty-five millions of inhabitants. The reply of the Minister of Education, Shukri Bey, was scarcely one to carry conviction. He had done his best, he said, to induce the other Ministers to make some extra sacrifice for the cause of education, but without success. The burden of his reply was in fact—"we cannot help it, we have not enough money."

A striking effect was produced by the speech of Prof. Thoumaian in the debate. He spoke straight to the representatives of the Moslem population to follow the example set by their Christian compatriots in matters of educational and cultural initiative. Under the old régime, he said, while Abdul Hamid was persecuting the Armenians and their homes were being wrecked, the Christians did not wait to ponder over the consequences—they gathered up their energies and started fresh schools and fresh colleges. He urged, therefore, his Turkish colleagues not to rely solely on the Government. They had been spoilt children in the past, being spoon-fed by the Government, to whom they still looked for all they could. And when they could not get as much as they wanted, they chafed at the idea of being thrown on their own resources. They should do as their Christian fellow-countrymen; they should take the initiative themselves in the educational work of their country.

The entire press of Constantinople, and notably the *Tanin* and the *Tasfir-i-Efkiar*, drew the attention of their readers to the weighty sentences of Prof. Thoumaian, and impressed on them the necessity of taking to heart the full meaning of his words, and to follow the example set by the Christians of Turkey. It is something to be recorded that the Turkish press applaud his patriotism, and look upon him as a lover of the Turkish fatherland.

Literary Section.

Reviews and Notices.

"MALCOLM MACCOLL : MEMOIRS AND CORRESPONDENCE." Edited by the Right Hon. George W. E. Russell. (Smith, Elder. 10s. 6d. net.)

This work is a labour of love by an old friend, and for its appearance Mr. Russell deserves the gratitude of all who attach importance to the value of personalities that sink self in their vehement advocacy of right, justice and humanity. Fired with a love of combat from his early youth, whether in friendly wrestling, wherein he was an adept, or in the subtleties of argument in the Debating Society he founded, MacColl carried this love into the more serious requirements of his mature life, both in Church matters and in politics. Armed with such attributes it is not unnatural that he should have left behind him the impression, not only among his personal friends, who were staunch and many, but among a much wider circle of the public, of being a true and fearless fighter in defence of what he regarded as the right. Indeed, it is not often that we see a minister of a Church entering into the ranks for a political fight, but in MacColl's case he was not merely a pulpit champion, upholding the cause of the weak and oppressed, but he had intimate relations with the leaders in politics, among whom he counted the great Gladstone as a personal friend. Of the other leaders of the time, he had a detestation of Lord Beaconsfield and all his works; he disapproved of Lord Rosebery's speeches and actions, or rather his inaction in the Armenian Question; and he had a decided predilection towards Lord Salisbury, whom he tried, unsuccessfully, to bring over to join Gladstone in a fight against Jingoism and anti-Churchism.

In this place our concern is more for MacColl's action with regard to the Armenian Question; and the correspondence which Mr. Russell gives to the world in this connection throws a vivid light on MacColl's power of advocacy when he was once convinced that he was taking up a righteous cause; and his actions were consonant with the words he wrote to Gladstone in May, 1895: "By the God Who made me, and in Whose strength I stand, I mean to do my level best to set the heather on fire on this question, cost me what it may, and cost the Government what it may." The first edition of his pamphlet, *England's Responsibility towards Armenia*, was sold out in five days and a further edition was demanded, by far the largest number of orders coming from the country where people who take a languid interest in Party politics are "roused to fever heat by a question like this, which appeals to their emotions, their humanity, their Christianity, and their passion for justice."

The bulk of MacColl's letters on the Armenian Question, quoted in this book, were to Gladstone and Lord Salisbury. His views suit the question to-day as they did when written nearly twenty years ago. Writing to Lord Salisbury in July, 1895, he says:—

"I have shed no tears on the Liberal collapse. I expected it whenever Gladstone retired, though his retirement is not the only cause of disaster. I gave them up a year ago, and have done my best to damage them throughout the country for their feeble diplomacy on the Armenian Question. I hope your Lordship will be able to secure European control, as in the Lebanon, for Armenia. That is much more important than any scheme of paper reforms."

He impresses on both Gladstone and Salisbury the information he had of the determination of the Sultan to settle the Armenian Question by the extermination of the Armenians; and he fearlessly attacks the Powers that selfishly stand aloof from helping the cause of Armenia. Here is a scathing passage in a letter to Gladstone of September, 1896, on the action of Austria:—

"I will send you to-morrow morning an article of mine in which you will find Austria's policy exposed out of the Blue Books. It is worse than Russia's, and Goluchowski is a greater sinner than Lobanoff. I know nothing more cynically brutal than Goluchowski's policy, as expounded by himself in the passages which I have quoted. It is a calm confession that the extermination of the Armenians, 'appalling' as he confesses it to be, must be permitted rather than incur any risk to Austrian interests. That is what it comes to. I hope you will pillory it at Liverpool. But may I venture to express humbly my opinion that it would be prudent to say nothing about Lobanoff till it is certain that the Tsar is hopeless? I am inclined to hope much from the Tsar's and Tsarina's visit to this country."

"Does history record a single act of generosity on the part of Austria, or any blow ever struck by her in the cause of any freedom but her own?"

But all MacColl's blandishments on Salisbury failed to induce the latter, though sympathetically inclined in many ways, to see eye to eye with him on the broader outlook, and to take vigorous action against Turkish misgovernment. In one of his final letters to Gladstone, September 9th, 1897, he despairingly writes:—

"Salisbury's weakness is deplorable. My belief is that there is a plot on the part of Germany to keep the Turks in Thessaly and destroy the Greek Kingdom, and that Austria and Russia are privy to it; probably France also. That wretched Levantine Hanotaux is as bad as any of them."

"But what are the Liberal leaders about? They are just as bad as the Government. They have done absolutely nothing to

enlighten the country. It shows how the Bulgarian business would have ended if you had not taken it up. I wish you would persuade Herbert to take up the Greek and Armenian questions."

With regard to Gladstone, that Grand Old Man, who was a friend indeed to Eastern Christians, Mr. Russell, in chronicling his death on May 19th, 1898, says that the persecuted Christians of the East will never forget that he bore them on his heart to the very gate of the eternal world. Almost his last intelligible words were : " Those poor Armenians."

One more quotation we will give. It is the letter of condolence on MacColl's death from the Armenian Patriarch to Mrs. MacColl :—

" MADAM,—The name of your venerated husband Canon Malcolm MacColl has been indeed such a subject of gratitude and of affection to all our nation that his loss could not be felt but with profound grief.

" Accept, Madam, the testimony of condolence which I render to his memory in my name and in the name of our nation.

" The Divine Judge, Who requires above all things from men the sentiments of kindness, and the works of benevolence, will know how in His inscrutable mercy to reward the beloved one in the eternal Peace.

" May Heaven, Madam, be bountiful to you with its graces of strength and comfort.

THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCH,
MALACHIA ORMANIAN."

With this short notice we must leave our readers to study the interesting volume for themselves, and can but thank Mr. Russell for enriching the world with the record of the innermost workings of a mind filled with the deepest convictions of right and justice—a personality whose memory will ever be cherished by Armenians.

" THE PEOPLE OF ARMENIA." By Archag Tchobanian, translated by G. Marcar Gregory. (J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd.). 1s. 6d. net.

In our May number we gave a specially contributed review of this little book. Now the *Christian Science Monitor*, of Boston, U.S.A., which has repeatedly for some considerable time given the Armenian cause its fullest sympathy and support, takes this book as its text for an excellent article in its issue of July 15th, which we reproduce below :

" The formula for solving the problem of Armenia," said James Bryce, some 10 years ago, " is not difficult to discover ; the main point is that the powers should really have the will to do something for the Armenians. And this willingness I do not see existing."

What the indifference of the Powers to the needs of a Christian people has cost the Armenians is told by Archag Tchobanian, with intense feeling, albeit with that absence of bitterness which appears to characterise the attitude of his countrymen towards those who have been their enemies and those who might have been their friends.

Between the covers of his little book, so modest in its appearance and yet containing one of the most moving appeals, one of the worst revelations of the history of unchecked barbarism meted out to his countrymen which has ever been recorded, the author lifts once again the curtain upon the tragedy of Turkish Armenia.

QUESTION FOR CIVILISATION.

The question must arise, how much longer the civilised countries of the world will stand aside, will refuse this appeal, not for retaliation and revenge—such a desire is remote from the thought of the Armenian—but for the opportunity to live in peace and prosperity within their borders. Djivani, the popular poet of the people, writing at the time of the great massacres, voiced the prayer of his countrymen in these words : " May the cause of our people be settled peacefully so that no nation may be injured in any way."

That Armenia is looking to Europe for deliverance from the evils which oppress her on every side, and which stop short of no crime to weaken and scatter her people, Mr. Tchobanian leaves his readers in no doubt. " The Armenians," he writes, " desire and believe it to be indispensable that Europe should lend to Turkey a governor-general or a high commissioner, having full power at least for a fixed period, and responsible for his actions solely to the Sultan and to Europe, who would be in a position to carry out reforms as an impartial and competent European."

The government of Egypt is carried on under conditions somewhat similar to those proposed by the writer, and is an instance that a statesmanship, essentially disinterested, its ideal the good of the people it legislates for, can, in circumstances vastly more complicated achieve no small measure of success.

FOREWORD BY LORD BRYCE.

Mr. Tchobanian's little volume, " The People of Armenia," with a foreword by Lord Bryce, who has ever shown himself in active and intelligent sympathy with the Armenians, has been translated by G. Marcar Gregory from a lecture recently delivered in Paris. The book is far from a mere rehearsal of the tragedies enacted upon the Armenian stage. It contains much that is of interest concerning the literature of the country, its form and the spirit which has given wings to its genius.

The ballads and lyrics from which the writer quotes, though showing in some degree the darkness of the way, strike always the note of hope and of courage and are as free from the fatalism of eastern poetry as from its exotic complexity. This no doubt is to be accounted

for in the words of Adolphe Thalasso, quoted by the author : "The inspiration which quickens it (Armenian poetry) differs essentially from that which pervades the love poetry of other Asiatic nations ; it draws its inspiration from the Christian ideal."

A people who embraced Christianity in the year 301, 12 years before it was adopted by Constantine the Great, and from that time to this have submitted to every indignity conceivable from Muhammadan domination, are surely justified in looking for assistance from other Christian nations for the restoration of justice and peace ; an assistance which, to be swift and practical, must come not merely through the enthusiasm and determination of individual reformers, but through the concerted action of the Powers, awake at last to the fact that the affair of Armenia is the affair of all Christendom, and that the time to act is now.

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Travel and Politics in Armenia.—By NOEL BUXTON, M.P., and the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON. With an Introduction by VISCOUNT BRYCE, and a Contribution on ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, by ARAM RAFFI. (*Smith, Elder.*) 5s. net.

** These chapters form a graphic account of recent travels in Russian and Turkish Armenia. The political reflections which they contain are enhanced by experience gained from many previous journeys in the Turkish Empire. They have exceptional value at a moment when that country is the subject of diplomatic action by all the Great Powers.

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This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription:—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

Communications affecting Membership, or any of the objects of the Association, should be addressed to

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